

REMARKS

Claims 2-13, 15-19 and 21-42 are pending. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 15, 21, 26, 29, 30, 33, 34, and 37 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 13, 14, 20, 21, 33,35, 37, 38 and 40-42 stand preliminarily rejected. Claims 2, 5-8, 10, 12, 15-19, 22-32, 34, 36 and 39 have been objected to. In response to the Office Action of July 2, 2004, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 5-8, 10, 12, 15-19, 22-32, 34, 36 and 39 have been objected to, but would be allowable with the incorporation of the respective base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 13, 14, 20, 21, 33,35, 37, 38 and 40-42 stand preliminarily rejected over McPherson 6,382,201 in view of Larson, 5,190,022. Applicant respectfully submits that all elements of the claims, as amended, are not taught or suggested by McPherson in view of Larson. For example, neither McPherson nor Larson alone or in combination teach a pair of dampeners, “wherein said first dampener abuts said second dampener” as is required in claims 15, 21, 33 and 37.

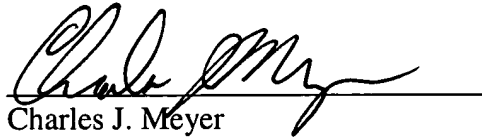
For another example, neither McPherson nor Larson alone or in combination teach a of dampener in floating association with a frame having a channel, “wherein said dampener is arranged in said channel”, as is required in claim 2. As a separate example, neither McPherson nor Larson alone or in combination teach a pair of dampeners connected through two communication ports, as claimed in claim 5.

Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims, as amended, are dependent on an allowed base claim or intervening claims and therefore are allowable for at least that reason as well.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests their approval. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned directly if it would be helpful to the advancement of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles J. Meyer", is written over a horizontal line.

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